

## NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

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Volume XXXIX.....No. 23

## AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE,  
Fifth Avenue and Twenty-third street—HUMPHRY  
DUPREY, at 8 P. M.; at 10:45 P. M. Mrs. J. S. Booth.FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE,  
Twenty-eighth street and Broadway—HARRIS AND WIFE,  
at 8 P. M.; at 10:45 P. M. Mr. Harris, Miss Ada  
Dyer.WALLACK'S THEATRE,  
Broadway and Twenty-third street—MONIEY, at 8 P. M.;  
at 11 P. M. Mr. Lester Wallack, Miss Jeffreys  
Lewis.ROOTH'S THEATRE,  
Sixth Avenue and Twenty-third street—LA FEMME DE  
PÉRU, at 8 P. M.; at 10:45 P. M. Mrs. J. S. Booth.OLYMPIC THEATRE,  
Broadway between Houston and Bleeker streets—  
VAUDEVILLE and NOVELTY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8  
P. M.; at 10:45 P. M.BROOKLYN PARK THEATRE,  
Opposite City Hall, Brooklyn—THE ARK-  
SAR TRAVELLER, at 8 P. M.; at 10:45 P. M. P. S.  
Chambers.BOWERY THEATRE,  
Bowery—SCOUTS OF THE SIERRAS, at 8 P. M.;  
at 11 P. M. Mr. Frank Payne.GERMAN THEATRE,  
Fourteenth street—DER MEINDEBAUER, at 8 P. M.;  
at 11:15 P. M.METROPOLITAN THEATRE,  
No. 25 Broadway—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8  
P. M.; at 10:45 P. M.NIBLO'S GARDEN,  
Broadway between Prince and Houston streets—  
ROMEO JAVIER, at 8 P. M.; at 10:45 P. M. THE BELL  
OF THE KITCHEN, at 9 P. M.; at 10:45 P. M. The  
Vocal Family, Mr. Lefebvre.ACADEMY OF MUSIC,  
Fourteenth street, corner of Irving place—KELLOGG  
ENGLISH OPERA—MARITANA, at 8 P. M.; at 10:45  
P. M. M. Van Zandt, Mrs. Morgan.WOOD'S MUSICAL  
Broadway, corner Third street—JACK ROBINSON'S  
MUSICAL COMEDY, at 8 P. M.; at 10:45 P. M. THE  
CONTINENT, at 8 P. M.; at 11 P. M. O. D. Byron.TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE,  
No. 31 Bowery—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, at 8  
P. M.; at 11 P. M.BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE,  
Twenty-third street, corner of Sixth Avenue—CINDER-  
ELLA IN BLACK, NEGRO MINSTRELS, at 8 P. M.;  
at 10:45 P. M.ROBINSON HALL,  
Sixteenth street—THE POCANINNES, at 8 P. M. and  
at 10 P. M.RAIN HALL,  
Great Jones street and Lafayette place—PIGRISS  
PROGRESS, at 8 P. M.; at 10:45 P. M.COLISEUM,  
Broadway, corner of Third street—CYCLOPAMA  
OF LONDON BY DAY, at 12 M.; at 4 P. M. P. M.  
PARIS BY NIGHT, at 7 P. M.; at 10 P. M.

## TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Friday, January 23, 1874.

## THE NEWS OF YESTERDAY.

To-Day's Contents of the  
Herald."THE CURRENCY QUESTION BEFORE CON-  
GRESS: INFLATION PROBABLE"—LEAD-  
ER—SIXTH PAGE.ANOTHER BATTLE IN ACHEN: NATIVE AS-  
SAULT ON THE MAIN POSITION OF THE  
DUTCH: A REPULSE: THE WHITES RE-  
INFORCED—SEVENTH PAGE.LARGE INCREASE OF SPECIE IN THE BANK OF  
FRANCE: GOVERNMENT PREVENTS THE  
SALE OF A PARIS JOURNAL—AFFAIRS IN  
SPAIN—SEVENTH PAGE.ENGLISH FINANCES: DENSE FOG IN LONDON:  
SERIOUS ILLNESS OF MME. PAREPA-  
ROSA—SEVENTH PAGE.A FORCED GOLD BASIS IN CUBA: INCREASED  
ACTIVITY AGAINST THE INSURGENTS:  
CARLIST EXILES—SEVENTH PAGE.TAMING THE KAFIRS: THE DIAMOND FIELDS  
THROUGED WITH ARMED SAVAGES, WHO  
REBEL UNDER "SUNSHINE" SHARP  
WORK AGAINST THEM: GOLD DIS-  
COVERIES—FOURTH PAGE.THE SHAMEFUL WASTE OF PUBLIC MONEY IN  
THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF WASHING-  
TON: THE BITTER STRUGGLE FOR INFLA-  
TION—THIRD PAGE.MR. BUTWELL ON FINANCE: RAILWAY TAR-  
IFFS: REPORTERS' SALARIES: THE CUR-  
RENCY—FIFTH PAGE.MR. WAITE'S ELEVATION TO THE SUPREME  
BENCH CAUSES JOY IN TOLEDO: A PER-  
SONAL SKETCH: THE REASONS FOR HIS  
COMPARATIVE OBSCURITY AND KEY-  
STONES OF HIS SUCCESS—SEVENTH PAGE.LIGHT TO BE THROWN UPON THE SIAMSE  
TWIN MYSTERY—IMPORTANT LATEST  
NEWS—SEVENTH PAGE.NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA TO BE CON-  
NECTED BY CABLE THROUGH THE AN-  
TILLES: THE "GEM" EXCLUDED—A BRA-  
ZILIAN CABLE—FOURTH PAGE.THE SPANISH-CUBANS STILL HARING ON THE  
VIRGINUS CASE: THE VICTORY OF  
OIRABA—BRITISH DRAGOONS—A TOM-  
PKINS SQUARE RIOTER CONVICTED—FIFTH  
PAGE.THE RETENTION OF "ECONOMICAL" GREEN: A  
LEGISLATIVE SCHEME TO MAKE THE  
COMPTROLLER'S AND CORPORATION COUN-  
SEL'S OFFICES ELECTIVE—TENTH PAGE.LOST TIME: BUSINESS MEN AND TRAVELLERS  
ARGUE FOR QUICKER TRANSIT THROUGH  
THE CITY—THE FOG—EIGHTH PAGE.WOMAN'S APPEAL TO WOMAN AGAINST A  
TYRANT—NO CLEW TO THE NUDE CORPSE  
FOUND IN THE RIVER—THE WINE AND  
SPIRIT TRADE—EIGHTH PAGE.A REDUNDANT CURRENCY: HOW IT WORKS  
MISCHIEF: FINANCIAL BUSINESS IN  
WALL STREET YESTERDAY—NEW YORK'S  
NATIONAL BANKS—NINTH PAGE.PINCBACK IS LIKELY TO COME TO grief.  
The probability now is that a new election  
will be ordered. Is this another indication of  
the new departure—another unloading of  
monstrosities? Or is the case of the ill-used  
Pincback sent back in order to avoid the un-  
savory disclosures that might attend an in-  
vestigation? Whichever may be the fact, it is  
probable that if Pincback loses his seat he  
will find his tongue, and the mysteries of New  
Orleans politics may yet be brought to light  
out of darkness.The Currency Question Before Con-  
gress—Inflation Probable.

Mr. Dawes, the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill yesterday to fix the amount of legal tender notes at four hundred millions. This bill, it is said, was prepared by Mr. Beck, of Kentucky. It declares that the provisions of the law existing prior to the act of April 12, 1866, are in force so as to authorize the amount of four hundred millions of legal tender notes to be kept in circulation, and that the total amount issued or to be issued shall never exceed that amount. The bill coming from the Committee of Ways and Means indicates that the object of sanctioning the whole of the legal tender reserve, forty-four millions, is more to relieve the necessities of the Treasury than to favor expansion for the sake of increasing the currency. It is known that the Secretary of the Treasury has drawn already the largest portion of the reserve. The bill, no doubt, is to legalize that act beyond all question of legality hereafter and to afford additional means to the Treasury to the extent of the balance. Those who favor expansion will, of course, support the measure from another motive, for they maintain that we have not enough currency. Judging from present appearances, the bill will be passed. This movement is undoubtedly a retrograde one, and will tend in a measure to postpone specie payments. The remark of Mr. Cox, that it is "a relapse into barbarism," is perhaps too strong, for, although it is inflation, and to be regretted, the amount of legal tenders remaining to be put in circulation is small and is not likely to have much or any perceptible effect upon the price of gold. Indeed, the almost foregone conclusion that there will be inflation to the extent proposed has had no influence up to this time on the gold market. Senator Boutwell takes the proper ground that there should be neither expansion nor contraction.

To use a well worn but an appropriate simile, Congress is all at sea, without rudder or compass, with regard to the finances and currency of the Republic. The ablest men of both houses, irrespective of party affiliations, entertain views directly opposed, and scarcely five members can be found of the same opinion. Almost every one has a theory of his own. Yet it is the subject that occupies the most attention and provokes the widest discussion. Indeed, it is upon that more than upon any other that the material interests and prosperity of the country depend. In former times the influence of the federal government did not bear so directly upon the business and material welfare of the people. Before the war the revenue was small, taxes were few, comparatively, there was no national currency, and the several States and State institutions operated more upon the individual citizen and his interests. The creation of an enormous national debt, the issuing of government paper money as a legal tender, the organization of a national banking system with a national currency, together with the necessary imposition of heavy taxes, have placed in a great measure the wealth, industry and business of the country at the mercy of federal power. Hence it is that all eyes are turned to Congress and the administration for the means of extricating the Republic from its abnormal financial condition and to place its affairs and the currency on a substantial basis.

The debate in the Senate, which began last Tuesday and continued during the week, and which is now postponed, is upon the resolution reported by the Finance Committee early in the session, declaring "it to be the duty of Congress to adopt definite measures to redeem the pledge made in the act of March 18, 1869, and directing the Committee on Finance to report to the Senate as early a day as practicable such measures as will redeem this pledge, but will also furnish currency of a uniform value, always redeemable in gold or its equivalent, and so adjusted as to meet the changing wants of trade and commerce." The resolution, though not showing definitely the object proposed, and not giving any idea of what legislative measures should be adopted—being, in fact, merely a neat piece of generalization—may form some opinion of the scope and meaning from the speech of Mr. Sherman in the Senate last Friday.

The gist of the whole argument he made was in the one expression that "Congress is bound, both by public faith and good policy, to bring our currency to a specie standard." The Senator proceeds upon the presumption that the non-interest bearing legal tenders are not only a debt, but a debt due, and that the nation is dishonored by not paying this debt. The act of Congress authorizing the issue of these notes did not fix any time for their redemption, nor do these notes bear on their face anything about their redemption or the time in which they would be redeemed. Government has given them the character of money, as it had a right to do. They do not constitute a debt due. Mr. Sherman assumes that nothing can be money but metals having the government stamp on them, and that the stamp of the government on paper does not make money, though all the business of the country for years has been based upon the legal tenders.

The expediency or policy of redeeming these notes is another question. If the finances of the government would be improved and the prosperity of the country promoted by their redemption, and the government could command gold enough to make that practicable, every one would say let the greenbacks be redeemed. But we do not see how adding four hundred millions to the interest bearing debt, thus imposing an additional burden of taxation of over twenty millions a year upon the people, can either improve the national finances or promote the prosperity of the country, for that is what redemption means. Then there must and will be a paper currency, even if we come to specie payments. By the uniform currency advocated by Mr. Sherman, after the redemption of the greenbacks, we are to understand, we presume, the national bank currency. Thus the nation is called upon to assume an additional burden of over twenty millions a year and to give that much to the national banks in addition to the twenty millions or thereabouts already given to them. These favored institutions are to have all the profits of a national circulation, amounting to something like forty millions a year. Then where is the gold to come from in order to resume specie payments? It has been proposed that the government buy two hundred millions or so from Europe. Bonds would have to be issued, of course, to pay for that,

and the interest bearing debt would be still further and largely increased. The whole policy is to overload the people, who are already heavily burdened, with a vast augmentation of the interest bearing debt. Greenbacks would come to par if we imported less and exported more, and a favorable balance of trade should cause gold to flow to this country. Our production and exports would never be increased, however, by contracting the currency or by increasing the tax burdens of the people.

The proper compromise between these conflicting opinions, and, probably, the best for the country, is neither to contract nor expand the currency. But the first thing is to avoid the apparent necessity of issuing more government notes by reducing the expenditures to the actual revenue income. Those who favor contraction must necessarily contemplate increased taxation. At least that would be the result of their policy. The people would certainly object to more taxes while the government has an income of nearly three hundred millions. Nor will it be wise to increase the non-interest bearing debt simply as an expedient to bridge over present difficulties. If more currency were required for the business of the country it should be issued for that purpose only. But, as was said, it would be well to let the present volume remain in circulation without adding to it, for in that way the country would grow up to a specie basis. There should be, however, a more equitable distribution, so that the West and South could have a fairer share. It has been said that the currency should be made elastic in some degree to suit the varying wants of trade. How this is to be with a metallic currency we are not informed. Elasticity might be attained with our present currency if a portion of it, at least, were made convertible into bonds bearing a low rate of interest, and these convertible at the pleasure of the holder. There may be wisdom in the multitude of counsellors, according to the old maxim, but we fear that will not apply to Congress in this matter of regulating the national finances and currency.

## The English Opera Season.

To sing in one's native tongue may be considered as a surer and shorter road to general popularity than the most ambitious efforts of an artist on the lyric stage in a foreign language. There is a greater degree of sympathy and mutual understanding attained between the singer and the audience and more real enjoyment and appreciation on the part of the latter. This was exemplified during the last two nights at the Academy of Music, where Miss Kellogg appeared for the first time in this city in English opera after long and distinguished services on the Italian stage. Her reception has been hearty and enthusiastic, and, warmed into confidence and spirit by the friendly demonstrations of her hearers, the prima donna has gained a success of an emphatic description, surpassing anything that can be added in her Italian opera experience. In this new field of lyric art Miss Kellogg may be considered as having struck a popular vein which will not be easily exhausted. The field is an extensive one, and the only danger to be guarded against is in abandoning the legitimate repertoire of English opera for fimsy translations of Italian works. It is easier to please an operatic ear by presenting a work in the language in which it was originally written than by attempting an adaptation foreign to its very spirit. There is every reason to expect that English opera, with such a popular prima donna and with a well selected company, can be made a permanent success, as it appeals to a larger public than any other branch of the lyric art. The highest form of lyric art is, of course, Italian opera, but it requires an amount of refinement and musical education which practically limits its sphere in this country to New York city. English opera is less costly, more easily understood, and therefore adapted to the musical wants of the provinces as well as the metropolis.

## The Kafir Revolt.

Ashantee, Natal and Acheen—these are the three possessions which at the present time are costly pieces of property to their possessors. Our correspondents at the different scenes of strife are describing to our readers how white men fight the savages, as Ashantees, Kafirs and Acheenes can be called. Each war presents different aspects of military campaigning, reckless adventure and unprofitable bloodshed; yet each one, we believe, is a blow dealt for the promotion of commerce and the advancement of civilization. This morning our interesting letters from Natal, describing the origin and progress of the Kafir war, need never have been written if the government of the colony had taken the simple precaution of keeping arms from the turbulent natives. As well might the United States distribute fifty thousand rifles to our Western Indians and expect them to become Quakers as for England to permit an avalanche of firearms to descend among tribes like the notorious Kafirs, trusting to their loyalty to British governors. These three wars have all been the outgrowth of a stupid colonial policy on the part of England and Holland, both Powers having simply reaped as they have sown.

BUFFALO HAS GENERALLY ESCAPED serious damage through floods on the breaking up of the ice; but this season she has not been so fortunate. The flood in Buffalo River yesterday has caused a loss reported at nearly a million of dollars, and which will be much heavier if the Michigan street bridge should follow the Ohio street bridge, which gave way yesterday morning. As it is, some of the finest elevators have suffered much damage, and the vessels which have been carried down the stream will probably all be more or less injured.

PHILADELPHIA has been greatly excited on the question of her municipal nominations, the leading parties taking strong ground in favor of an independent candidate in opposition to the present incumbent and the nominee of the republican party. But, in spite of the efforts, strong as they were, in behalf of an independent nomination, both parties chose strictly partisan candidates. The reason is one that is very effective in political movements—each of the old organizations expects to win at the election in February, and, consequently, reform is not so important as it would have been had the chances been less evenly balanced.

## "What Might Have Been."

The story of the Virginus is now a part of ancient history, but our able contemporary, the *Tribune*, gives it a sort of posthumous interest by rehearsing the adventures of the famous filibuster during the period she was under Captain Smith's command, and showing "what might have been" if our governmental eyes had not been closed to her pitiful doings. Perhaps it is idle to waste words over "the saddest of words," now that "what might have been" has been so effectively swallowed up in what has been. Nevertheless, the *Tribune's* reflections will not be without utility if they serve us as a warning for the future and impress upon us the lesson that "there must be no more playing with fire." The almost ridiculous vexations and perplexities to which the American Consul at Puerto Cabello was subjected by the vagaries of the vessel; his eager but vain attempts to "throw her off" on a United States man-of-war; the troubles of our Consul at Maracaibo, who denounced her as a "damned pirate" to his administration, all prove that it was the plain duty of the government to put a stop to the fraud that was being practised upon our flag, and justify the *Tribune* in charging to its neglect the butcheries at Santiago and the loss of the five million dollars which the Spanish seizure has already entailed upon us. There can be no doubt that we shall now be expected to punish the flagrant violations of our neutrality laws, which appear to have been proven against the Virginus, before we can insist upon the punishment of the Santiago butchers or press for compensation to the families of their victims. Indeed, it will be fortunate if we escape the payment of damages to Spain for the negligence of which we have been guilty.

There will be some compensation for our losses and humiliations, however, if the Virginus troubles lead us to more circumspection in the future. We can no longer afford to neglect the duty we owe to friendly nations, to adopt the tone of the bully when our omissions subject us to insult and outrage, and to back down from our position when we are met by resistance and defiance. We must either resolve to maintain our standing as a first class Power, faithfully fulfilling all our international obligations and firmly enforcing all our just demands, or make up our minds to be nothing more than a business and commercial nation, submitting patiently to insult and putting up with injuries as best we may. In the former case we must strengthen our navy and take such a position on the high seas that a third rate Power like Spain will no longer be able to sweep our flag from the ocean and threaten our coast with devastation. In the latter case we must be content to leave our national honor in the hands of other Powers, and to notify Americans that from the moment they leave their native soil they must expect no protection from their own government, so that they may either give up foreign travel or pass themselves off as Englishmen when abroad. At present we are neither the one thing nor the other. It is true that we succeeded in securing the surrender of the Virginus in a damaged and disgraceful condition; but this was due to the temporary crippled condition of Spain and especially of the Spanish navy. At the very moment the surrender was made our Consuls in Cuba were subjected to insults which would never have been offered to British representatives. The Virginus trouble may be repeated at any moment when Spain is less embarrassed and has her whole navy at her command. We should at once make up our minds to put ourselves in a condition to maintain our national honor in a better cause than that of the Virginus, or abandon the character of a first class Power, sell our vessels of war, dismantle our ports and settle down as a nation of peaceful and non-combatant traders.

## Mayor Havemeyer's Discourse—The Sorrows of a Municipal Sairey Gamp.

It is not surprising that Mayor Havemeyer should scold and complain in the singular document which he laid before the Common Council on Monday last. He is no doubt a disappointed man; disappointed that he was not endowed with the power to fill all the municipal departments with the old cronies with whom he has been accustomed to hobnob for the past half a century, and disappointed that the selections he has made of public officers have not been appreciated by the people. We can allow for some exhibition of spleen in a political veteran whose garrulosity is equal to that of the famous Sairey Gamp when he finds himself snubbed by the party that has elevated him to power and unable to help himself. But we cannot see why he should in fact on the citizens of New York a message fearfully long for the sole purpose of gratifying his personal pique and jealousy. We might at least have expected some intelligent allusion to the great interests of the metropolis—some encouraging words for those public improvements of which the city stands so much in need, and which have remained paralyzed ever since we were fortunate enough to secure a reform municipal government. But Mayor Havemeyer has no word to say in favor of the great need of the city—rapid transit. He can pick and carp at the Department of Public Works, he can abuse the Legislature, he can puff an incompetent Comptroller, but he cannot see that the million and a quarter of people in New York are suffering for want of the means of rapid locomotion, and that a steam railroad is vital to the city's future progress and prosperity. He can sneer at the splendid plans of the late Dock Commission, and congratulate himself that his commissioners are doing only a little patchwork and tinkering. He can bewail the annexation of the Westchester towns, lamenting that the city he ruled over in the earlier years of the century should step over the boundary of Manhattan Island and dreading the day when it may stretch along the main land until it absorbs Poughkeepsie. But all this only proves that he has been mentally enjoying a Rip Van Winkle sleep for the past twenty-five years and has not yet fully awakened.

The best counsel we can give Mayor Havemeyer is to cut loose from bad advisers and to write no more messages. The experiment of going back a generation to govern a city that is chafing and fretting for an opportunity to dart forward on a career of magnificent progress and prosperity has proved a failure. The people have learned a lesson

from which they will profit next fall, and when Mayor Havemeyer retires he will no doubt take with him into private life the venerable officials with whom he has filled such offices as were at his disposal. Our next Executive, it is to be hoped, will have less to say about his personal grievances and more about rapid transit, dock improvements, annexation and all those grand schemes by which New York, if it does not march over "main land" to Poughkeepsie, will in a few years at least march out of reach of the bewildered imagination of our present Chief Magistrate.

## Rapid Transit—The Proposed Third Avenue Elevated Railroad.

The bill introduced in the Assembly to grant a franchise for an elevated railroad along the Third Avenue to Harlem bears a suspicious appearance upon its face. The incorporators named in the bill are mainly the directors and stockholders of the Third Avenue horse car line, with a sprinkling of ancient politicians who have no particular reputation as railroad men, except it be in making money out of the franchisees. The annual report of the Third Avenue road shows that, with a capital stock of two million dollars, its gross receipts last year were over two millions and its net earnings close upon a million, or nearly fifty per cent upon its capital. Rapid transit would injure no other city railroad so greatly as it would injure the Third Avenue, and the question which will occur to every mind is, whether the stockholders of this richly paying route would be likely to give up voluntarily a business which pays them back their whole investment in two years to embark in a costly speculation whose profits, however good, could not be expected to be anything like so large? The suspicion will force itself upon the people that the incorporators may seek this valuable franchise only in order to exclude other projects, and with the intention of preventing the construction of a steam railroad, at least for two or three years to come, so that they may be left for some time longer in the enjoyment of their present enormous profits. We have had experience in the past which should guard us against this danger. It is just possible that the stockholders of the Third Avenue road realize the fact that rapid transit cannot any longer be delayed, and hence desire to seize upon the project of a route along their present line and make the best out of it that they can. But the fact that the interest of a wealthy city road is represented in the bill is not calculated to excite confidence in the scheme.

As we have repeatedly said, we are indifferent in what shape rapid transit may come or to whom its certain advantages may accrue provided we secure the construction of a steam railroad or railroads through the whole length of the city in as short time as possible and with the certainty that the cost of travel will place it within the reach of all our citizens. But we must not be cheated in the matter, nor allow another underground will-o'-the-wisp to lead us astray. The subject is one of vitally important to the people to be trifled with or gambled with, as in former years. We have reached a point in our career at which we must have the means of travelling from the Battery to the Westchester border by steam cars in half an hour or abandon all hope of the further growth and prosperity of the metropolis. Rapid transit is now not alone our great want, but our absolute necessity. It is on this account that the people are willing to favor any scheme that means business and promises success, and it is on this account that the Legislature should carefully guard against trickery or jobbery in any measure that may be proposed. The safest and wisest plan would be the passage of a bill creating a thoroughly respectable and reliable commission, with power to build the road on the city's credit, or, with the concurrence of certain of the city authorities, to allow its construction by private capital under such regulations as they may deem proper to impose. We should thus get the whole subject within the control of a local board in which the people would have confidence, and the result would be no longer doubtful. The Commissioners would have the power to build two viaduct or elevated roads, one on each side of the city, or to build one road, or to grant a restricted charter to a private company for the construction of one or both. They would be restricted to no single plan, but would be at liberty to adopt the best that might offer. Such a law would not possess the taint of jobbery; there could be no suspicion that its design might be to defeat rapid transit altogether, and it would take the subject out of the hands of the Legislature and place it under the control of those who are interested in it—the citizens of New York. Will not some public spirited Senator or Assemblyman turn a deaf ear to the lobby and introduce such a bill?

## GERMANY AND FRANCE—THE POWER OF BISMARCK.

The French government has issued an order forbidding the sale of the newspaper *L'Opinion Nationale*. Other papers have been put down in a similar way and for similar reasons. French papers have been speaking freely regarding Bismarck's anti-Catholic policy, and in consequence Bismarck has been growling. The growling seems to have had the effect intended. The French government listens and obeys. Not only does it suppress newspapers; it writes conciliatory letters to Rome. The Assembly has begun to be alarmed, and the members of the Left have submitted an interpellation of the government, which, after violent discussion, has been laid on the table by a majority of one hundred. Too much submission to Berlin may prove a source of danger to the MacMahon government.

## OUR STREET STREETS.

The filthy condition of our streets has been the subject of general complaint for some time, and unless the Street Cleaning Bureau show more activity the discontent is likely to assume considerable proportions. There is no excuse for the accumulations of slush and refuse matter, not alone in the poorer parts of the town, but even in the principal thoroughfares. The large appropriations made by the city for street cleaning ought to secure for the citizens immunity from mud-covered streets. The Police Commissioners, who are charged with the supervision of the work, will receive the best thanks of the people if they will compel a more efficient use of the broom. Unusual exertions are necessary to prevent accumulations of refuse matter in the streets, and we wish to see the responsible authorities show

themselves equal to the occasion. There is much glory to be gained by the vigorous use of a broom. In fact, we want a sweeping reform.

## The Report of the Commissioners of Emigration.

The report of the Commissioners of Emigration furnishes a good deal of information of great public interest. It shows that the tide of immigration flows to the United States with undiminished force. More than three hundred thousand persons have landed at this port during the past year, and well nigh one-third of the whole number have made their home in the Empire State. The increase of wealth-producing power involved in this large accession to the population is a valuable gain to the nation, and the public will be glad to learn that the authorities at Castle Garden are alive to the necessity of protecting the interests of the immigrants. Many thousands of the men who seek homes in the United States are unable to speak English, and for these the interposition of Castle Garden agents is invaluable in preventing fraud. The Germans and Irish furnish nearly two-thirds of the whole immigration, the balance being made up by contingents from many nationalities. Provision is made for the relief of the distressed and the care of the sick. The Labor Bureau exercises a careful supervision over the immigrants who remain under their charge, and during the year obtained employment for twenty-six thousand persons. With the object of preventing abuses no one is allowed to employ immigrants of either sex without presenting satisfactory recommendations to the Commissioners. In order to render the bureau more efficient and to afford greater protection from fraud to immigrants, several recommendations have been made to the Legislature which deserve attention. The first aims at obtaining cheaper transportation rates over the different railway lines, for both passengers and baggage. Some enactment is also called for which will prevent the practice of switching off emigrant trains, which involves a great injustice to the unfortunate passengers. These recommendations ought to receive immediate attention from our lawmakers. The city and State of New York have a special interest that every facility and protection shall be afforded to the people seeking homes under our free institutions, because immigration affects directly our prosperity.

THE TROUBLE IN GRANT PARISH, Louisiana, last summer, it will be remembered, resulted in the arrest of seven persons, who are still held under the Ku Klux act. No trial has been accorded them, and they have not been permitted to give bail for trial. There seems to be no excuse for such delay as this, and it is in such culpable administration of justice by the United States authorities in the South that a return of good feeling towards the government is made impossible.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS BILL—A PROTEST FROM GEORGIA.—Resolutions have been passed by the Georgia Legislature in denunciation of the Civil Rights bill, now awaiting the action of Congress. The resolutions affirm that the effect of the passage of the bill (which provides, among other things, that whites and blacks shall be admitted on a footing of equality in public schools) will be to break up the public school system of Georgia, and that all appropriations for such schools will be withheld by the Legislature should the bill pass. As this bill closely approaches the question of social equality between the Southern whites and blacks, these Georgia resolutions are simply a warning that the forcing system of Congress may be pushed too far in the reconstructed Southern States. A wise government, in its efforts to reclaim the loyalty and respect of a conquered people, deals cautiously with the prejudices of race and caste which for centuries have been the groundwork of their social system.

INVOLUNTARILY OF THE MAILS.—That letters in the Post Office shall be absolutely sacred from prying curiosity and that any tampering with them is a crime are accepted notions with the people, and they are good notions to encourage. If there is any reason to set them aside it is doubtful whether a mere suspicion that the letters are the cover to some violation of the law is a good reason, and the determination of the Postmaster, therefore, not to surrender letters to the Customs authorities will meet the public approval. He does all that can fairly be required when he furnishes information of the destination of suspected letters, and the authorities can pursue the subject as well outside as inside the Post Office.

LECTURES TO LADIES.—A series of lectures is being given to women, under the direction of a committee of ladies of the Sorosis, upon the "Hygienic and Moral Influence of Dress." This is a practical way of treating the subject of women's rights. Many women, otherwise intelligent and well educated, are compelled by the conventional rules of society to adopt fashion's arbitrary dictum, to the sacrifice of personal health and comfort. We trust these lectures will be attended by many well thinking and sensible women, and that much profit to themselves, as well as to man and woman kind generally, may result therefrom.

THE COMMUNISTS WILL PROBABLY learn a useful lesson in the conviction yesterday of one of the Tompkins square rioters and his sentence to three months imprisonment in the Penitentiary. A few more such examples will probably convince our foreign friends that America, while a land of liberty, is not a safe place for the mischievous advocates of Communism.

## MARYLAND EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1874.  
The Maryland Editorial Association met here today and adopted resolutions requesting their representatives in Congress to use every proper influence to obtain the repeal of that portion of the Postal law forbidding the free exchange of newspapers and free circulation in the counties in which they are published.

## DEATH OF A MASSACHUSETTS POLITICIAN.

Boston, Jan. 22, 1874.  
George W. Lobdell, State Senator from the First Plymouth district in 1872 and 1873, died at his residence in Mattapoisett yesterday.

## THE SANITARY CONVENTION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1874.  
Only eleven delegates are in attendance at the Sanitary Convention. Dr. Mary Walker took part in the discussion relative to the adoption of a constitution, but it was pretty well indicated by those present that they did not need her assistance.